



## ***Embassy of the United States of America***

Public Affairs Office

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **New Peace Corps Volunteers Sworn-In by U.S. Ambassador**

On August 12, forty-eight new Peace Corps Volunteers completed ten weeks of training and were officially sworn-in by U.S. Ambassador Michael S. Owen at the Old Town Hall in Makeni. The ceremony was also attended by Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport Dr. Minkailu Bah and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. These new Volunteers will join 34 other Americans currently assigned as teachers of mathematics, science and English in Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary schools throughout the country. This latest group finished ten weeks of training in Makeni where they lived with local host families while studying local languages, Sierra Leone culture and history. Topics also included effective classroom management and teaching practices, and how to stay safe and healthy. The forty-eight Volunteers will now be dispatched to their new schools and communities to serve the students and people of Sierra Leone.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Ambassador Owen paid tribute to the host families for taking such good care of the new Volunteers and welcoming them to Sierra Leone. He also expressed confidence that each volunteer would become part of his or her host community – while continuing to strengthen the friendship between Sierra Leone and the United States. The Ambassador praised the Peace Corps program as “a model of cooperation between our two governments.”

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the U. S. federal government devoted to world peace

and friendship. Since that time, 200,000+ Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

The Peace Corps' mission has three simple goals:

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

For more information, please see [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).